



ARENA REPORT



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One wonders if one year from now we will have the WWF around to report on. The next six weeks are a very crucial period for Titan Sports. As some of you already know, Pat Patterson and Terry Garvin have resigned from Titan. The two were being accused of child sex abuse. This issue will be somewhat different as I have a couple of columns related to the whole problem in Titan. Klone has a special column this ish talking about what would happen if wrestling went away for a while. And K.C O'Connor compares the Hogan and Magic Johnson stories. My personal opinion on the WWF subject is that it will always be around in one form or another with the utmost being Vince selling the WWF.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. A label on your envelope indicates how many issues you have left on your sub. All renewals, letters, and match reports may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. Thanks to everyone for reading. Enjoy.

LIVE REPORT

Tampa Sportatorium (ICWA)

Tampa, FL

March 5, 1992

Correspondent

I was joined tonight by Chris Qualmann and Jeff Siegel who was in town on business so the grades are an average of the three.

1) Allison Royal beat Penelope Paradise in 7:37. Royal looks real green. She did do an impressive Budro corkscrew elbow but it missed its mark. End came as Penelope did a flying bodypress which Royal reversed for the win. 3/4*
2) Jim Backlund downed Mike Incognito in 9:08 with the Alabama jam. Backlund did an awesome diving headbutt from the top rope which missed. ** all for Backlund and Jeff awarded ** to Pat Tanaka wherever he is. 3) Lou Perez & Allen Iron Eagle beat The Terminators via DQ in 17:34 in what was billed as a U.S. Tag title bout. Faces came out in KKK sheets called the Hit Men as they've been feuding with Termies for a couple of weeks. Heels went nuts when they pulled the sheets off. Funny. One is latin and the other mexican, and they're wearing KKK sheets. Tasteless angle or what. Jeff said it must have been Herd's idea. Lou was pinning Terminator when Al Greene hit ref Micky Jay for DQ. But wait. Not before other ref came in and counted Termie out for an apparent title change. The Dusty finish runs wild in the ICWA. ** I opposed this grade. 4) Jim Neidhart beat Star Rider Rock with a powerslam in 8:03. Rock was a sub for Jumbo Berretta. What a bummer. Not much reaction to the Anvil. Dud 5) Denny Brown defeated Mark Starr in a cage bout via DQ in 17:34. It was to be Coconut Man vs. Starr but he came out with taped ribs. Brown took his place. Denny is definatly out of the junior heavy weight class. Starr juiced. Finish saw Backlund climb the cage for a double sledge from the top. Looked good. They destroyed Brown while five wrestlers were being beat back trying to climb the cage. * for last 2 minutes. NOTES: Steve Keirn was in the crowd as was Rocky Johnson. Chris worked on Keirn's contract for Titan so Jeff and I watched while Chris went to say hello. He got a **** pop from Skinner.....Jeff kept saying something about looking for Miss Goodbar. Its Goodbody Jeff.....And yes, we did hit Mons.....

RAMBLINGS

Before getting to the news, I've got some business to talk about. As most of you aware, the next WCW PPV is being held in Jacksonville on 5/17. Tickets are going on sale during intermission of the next house show which is on April 5. Since WCW will not cooperate with us this time on copping ring-side seats, a couple of us will head up on 4/5. Now Chris, Klone, & myself were going to front the money and then get paid back by whoever wanted tickets but the interest is so high that we'd be talking about mega bucks here since tickets are at least \$25.00. So here's the deal. Anyone interested in us getting seats for them for the PPV must send a check or money order by April 4. Make it out to me and the sum of \$25.00. If its less or more I'll square up with you after. We don't plan on going in for the first half of the card so we should be first in line. It's going to be a wild weekend so I hope you plan on coming..... More "Ramblings" on pages 5 and 10.

(continued on page 5)

WOULD IT BE SO BAD, REALLY ?

With every passing day it seems the WWF house of cards comes closer to tumbling down. The drug and sex scandals have latched themselves to the Conn based company the way a shank adheres itself to its prey after tasting blood. The domino effect is bound to hit WCW and GLOBAL (we must admit ESPN carries a semi-daily national wrestling product) as well. As the dung hits the rotating metal blade, the national sponsors and most tv stations will disappear in the blink of an eye. The question of the day Arena Report readers is : Would it be so bad if wrestling as we know it would blow up and expire ? I think not !!!

In the past whenever the WWF or WCW product made me (a fan of twentytwo years) want to give up, I would fall back on the following paragraph :

Dave Meltzer, The Wrestling Observer Newsletter, May 29, 1986 - Best book I've ever read on wrestling--"Fall Guys" by Marcus Griffin. It was written in 1937--some 50 years ago. I just read it this week and a few lessons were apparent: 1) No matter how deep in scandal wrestling becomes, it will never die; 2) No matter how powerful a promotion or organization becomes, ego and greed are so prevalent that it always crumbles; 3) Even 50 years ago, according to this book there were champions who couldn't wrestle (Jim Londos, Wayne Munn, Danno O'Mahoney, Gus Sonnenburg); 4) No matter how deep a depression the business gets in, it will eventually rebound and no matter how big it gets, the public will eventually burn out on it and it will have a downside.

Now does that make you feel somewhat better ? It always raises my spirits toward the future. The cycles of wrestling appear to be akin to the economy up and down (though not in sync).

There is not a single one of you that watches all the wrestling that comes via your tv signal. There is too much and ninety percent of it is not worth your time or effort. After the coming crash, wrestling will return to where it should be on little obscure indy stations at odd times of the day. And on some weeks it will be pre-empted and we will bitch and moan. But we will return the next week for our little drink of wrestling nectar. The pre-1984 fans had to search out wrestling and it was worth the effort. And thus those days shall return.

All the wrestling toys, games, dolls etc will disappear from store shelves as fast as Pee Wee Henman products did when his scandal broke. Wrestling is not meant to be kiddie fare. It's an obscure little diversion for a certain breed of fans and of course the closet fans who watch but would never admit it. I compare hardcore wrestling fans to Star Trek, Rocky Horror, comicbook, or really any of those little gatherings of fans of a particular offbeat interest.

After the crash wrestling will return to the high school gyms, armories, and halls holding at the most a couple of thousand fans. Last May I attended a major p-p-v and a little indy under the stars within hours of one another. I had three times as much fun at the indy as the big show. Wrestling was meant to be close and intimate with the sounds of grunts and groans mixed with catcalls and heckling.

Many of the current big-time wrestling stars have little or no interest in wrestling, it's past, present, or future. All they care about is their paycheck and perhaps using wrestling as a stepping stone to something else. It is the people who love wrestling like Paul E, Jim Connette, and Eddie Gilbert and the like who will be there when it returns. And perhaps men like Bill Watts and Jerry Lawler who love wrestling but also realize that money can be made in the production of wrestling.

I don't dare speculate on the wrestling press. I know that Dave Meltzer, Ron Lemieux, and Jeff Mullins will be around somewhere. They have loved wrestling for too long to give up on it now.

So gather up your old tapes, get yourself a Japanese or Lucha Libre tape source and get thy self ready for the end as we know it. It won't be so bad, think about all the great new friends we have made that we never knew existed. I love wrestling and I'm damn proud to tell anyone that I'm a fan. To quote an old 60's phrase "keep the faith baby".

XLN

by K.C. O'Connor

The pythons and the smile. Trademarks of two different men in two different sports whose careers and egos bear a mirror-like resemblance. Hulk Hogan and Earvin "Magic" Johnson burst onto the national scene in the grandest fashion. Both virtually rookies, they showed that they were capable of filling in for two fallen heroes. They captured the attention and hearts of fans world wide and became the man to beat in wrestling and basketball. All the while flexing the pythons and flashing the smile. Charming, well spoken, positive role models, the captains of the team, and able to remain one of the boys while collecting MVP's year after year. These two seemed to possess a bottomless well of charisma that attracted people from all walks of life, and an almost guaranteed trait that they would emerge victorious from their athletic endeavors. Hogan and Johnson, in becoming larger than life, left a huge jugular exposed and now their jugular has been severed letting truth flow and staining their clean wholesome image. A blemish that can be overlooked, but never removed. Their place in the spotlight, that they covet and have earned, is now exposing them for what they truly are and has blinded them from the best option for their present situation. It is time for the Hulkster and Magic to resign their place as the front man and take a place on the sidewalk and cheer as the rest of the heroes go by.

The story of Terry "Hulk Hogan" Bollea is well known. He has a big guy with alleged big connections, who broke into wrestling, kicked around a few small territories, and was soon called in to the WWF to replace a lackluster champion in Bob Backlund. Hogan was chosen to be the key player in a promotion that would push pro wrestling into its most popular era. He was a hero who preached fitness, religious faith, and vitamins, he stood tall as a champion who would always rise to the occasion. With some brilliant PR work and the fact that the US was into anyone who was into themselves, Hogan became a household name in the "Ma Decade." Hogan took wrestling from the smoky high school gyms and the decrepit arenas to the big cities with a lot of glitz and flair. Surrounded by even more incredulous characters, he ruled as the man with the sense of fair play and a big heart, and no matter how stern his opponent appeared, there was never any real doubt that Hogan would reign supreme at the final bell.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson's story, while maybe not as familiar to the wrestling fans, is a veritable reflection of Hogan's. Johnson was a big guy who joined the Lakers with the expectation of becoming a leader for a team that would become a dynasty. Called on in Game 6 of the 1980 NBA finals to replace an injured Kareem-Abdul Jabbar, he played the finest game of his career and was instantly a star. Through years of excellence on the court, he too became a hero whose work ethic was an inspiration to kids all over the country. With his addictive enthusiasm, charisma, and ever present smile Johnson became a household name. He created moves and showed a genuine affection for the game, and when the Lakers were down with the clock ticking, everyone knew who would take, and usually make, the final shot.

The similarities are uncanny with the exception of one; workrate. While Hogan seemed comfortable with his mediocre abilities, Johnson strived to improve his game and skills. Johnson is a true talent, the likes of which Hulk Hogan or even Ric Flair could only hope to be in a wrestling ring. Both are widely credited with the popularity and public acceptance of their sports. Both are acknowledged as being the reason for their sport being placed on prime time television and accepted as legitimate entertainment. But even heroes of this magnitude can't last forever. Some simply fade into legendary status while some burn so brightly they become engulfed in their own flame and self-destruct. Hulk Hogan and Earvin Johnson are now being burned by the spotlight yet still refuse to leave the center stage.

Even the slightly educated eye could see that Hogan was using drugs to enhance his physique. Now the national media is focusing on this very issue and reports of alleged cocaine use and distribution are coming forth as well. Presently the average fan has only rumors to go on, but with the constant prodding by the press it is only a matter of time before the whole story, based on facts and findings, is revealed. Hogan has publicly stated that he is not a steroid user or abuser while a mountain of evidence piles up around him. Former wrestlers are starting to talk, and the trial with Dr. Zahorian showed that Hogan received packages from the number one supplier of steroids to WWF wrestlers. Hogan is backed into a corner yet still he spews out lies as easy as he does his three commandments. It is suggested that he take his money, be thankful for his time in the spotlight, and sink into the shadows of obscurity. Although the popularity of Hogan and wrestling as a whole has declined since '86 and '87, he is still a celebrity athlete and a very familiar name. And rather than sugar coat the denial and lies, he should just head for the hills before those that say his name fondly now say it with disdain tomorrow. Hogan has had an unbelievable run as the most popular guy in town. With his endorsements and a chance to be the king of "B" movies he should be financially set. These two options will not remain if he is exposed as a liar and drug addict. He doesn't need any more money from wrestling but he does apparently need the one thing that is more addictive than any of the drugs he has reportedly feasted on, the spotlight. Surely hearing your name screamed by thousands of fans in zombie-like fashion would be hard to walk away from. Hulkamania is a force, and will remain so as long as it is never tarnished. A confirmation of any drug association after repeated denials will turn his fans against him, obviously the last thing Hogan wants, and he may as well have never have existed.

Magic Johnson. The name Magic is a hero's name itself. He has stated numerous times that he has had the greatest life anyone could imagine. In his incredibly long list of accomplishments he has 5 NBA titles, 3 MVP's, 11 all-star appearances, and is the all-time leader for assists. He makes \$9 million a year in endorsements, owns 1/3 of Pepsi in Washington D.C., and is ready to release the Magic 32 line of clothes. Unlike Hogan he admitted his problem relatively quickly. He was honest and sincere. But anyone who saw the initial press conference could see the anxiety on his face at the beginning of his speech. His fear of the public's reaction showed, but Johnson, the master of saying the right thing at the right time used his plight and brave stance to collect support from the usually callous press. Upon receiving sympathy from the press during his speech, a relaxed look took over and by the end he showed not tears or self pity, but the trademark smile. The smile that was usually for the love of competition on the court now appeared to be for the competition of the HIV virus. Johnson vowed to be a spokesman for the virus and promised he would not let the disease beat him. He showed strength and courage and reaped a positive response, if not sympathetic, from the press and America itself. Magic, HIV positive, still a hero. But what about what is behind the smile?

Earvin Johnson is a college drop-out, fathered a child out of wedlock, and failed to practice safe sex in a day and age where a wrapper for your rascal is the difference between life and death. Johnson has repeatedly stressed that it wasn't contracted through homosexual sex. The Lakers and the NBA wanted it made clear that Magic wasn't homosexual, bisexual, or a drug user. The issue has seemingly turned from his brave stance facing an imminent death sentence to preserving his image as one of the guys. After all the magic appeal would desiccate quickly, and most certainly the endorsements, if it was found that he is a bisexual. However, had Johnson, upon learning he was not the highest paid Laker, not asked for a raise from his \$2.5 million annual salary, which required that he take a physical for the insurance company, which wanted to make sure that he was healthy and not likely to collapse mid-season, thus collecting unearned money while on the injured list, he would still be playing and running the risk, no matter how minuscule, of infecting teammates and opponents, not to mention his so far HIV-negative, pregnant wife and unborn child. Apparently Johnson, who admitted never lacking for female companionship, felt he was above contracting the HIV virus. It was ego that kept him from practicing safe sex and ego that made him ask for a raise and ego that gave him the "it can't happen to me" attitude. And now despite years of success on the court, millions annually in endorsements, and a reborn interest in his career from those that flocked to Michael Jordan, David Robinson, and Dikembe Mutumbo, Johnson feels he needs one more moment in the spotlight. Accepting a spot on the All-Star team when he had already retired was an egotistical action. Had he retired under less sympathetic circumstances, a la Mike Tyson, how many votes would he have collected? He would still be as talented as always. . . Determined to play in the Olympics to win a gold medal, adding another trophy to his already overcrowded mantle is as an egotistical move as he can make. As long as there is a chance that he could infect someone, he should not play. Off the record, many players at the All-Star game revealed a fear of playing with and against Johnson. What will really happen if he catches an elbow or butts heads on one of his patented drives for the basket? Does he really think that someone will run to his side, give him a band-aid, and resume play? At the first sight of blood, the players will scurry like mice thinking of their own health while leaving Johnson bleeding and humiliated. His best move would be to bow out gracefully, maintaining his dignity by offering another athlete the chance to play, saying he has played enough and the US team is still strong enough to win, or at least he hopes. No humiliation, and he'll get another brownie point from the public. His true fans will always remember him, but those who watch in Barcelona will be the same type of vultures who leer at a car accident. But apparently Johnson is not ready to let go of the Magic. He should take a look at another athlete who contracted a fatal illness and left the game with class and style instead of battling it on the playing field: the Iron Horse, Lou Gehrig. Gehrig thanked the fans for his greatest days and fought courageously for two years but never attempted a comeback. Now Johnson talks of returning to the court, maybe for appearances, but if he does try will most likely fall into the category of Muhammed Ali, Bjorn Bjorg, and other athletes who had it all but never regained their original form and lost everything to ego. Johnson gave us too much Magic to reduce himself to that.

Hogan and Johnson have sat atop the mountain for a long time. Truly nothing could be harder than walking away from it all. Apparently the addiction for the spotlight is greater than the addiction for drug and women. But Hogan, despite your feelings for his ability or drug use, was good for wrestling as a whole. He brought it to a level anew and made a lot of people money they may never have seen. Johnson, who it is not being suggested live in a bubble, but a career in knife sharpening is not suggested for hemophiliacs either, was a damn good player. He leaves behind memories of games that were unbelievable. The two men were leaders in their sport and are names that won't be forgotten if they retire now. For Hogan to stand in the muck and mire that is the WWF and be exposed as a fraud would be a sad thing to watch unfold. His craving for the spotlight can be satiated in Japan if necessary. And for Johnson, who can remain in the spotlight as a spokesman for the HIV virus, not to realize that it is the games he played that he will be remembered for, not the one he didn't, is a tragic mistake. Go home, guys, you deserve it.

Pittsburgh Civic Arena (WWF) Pittsburgh, PA February 28, 1992
Correspondent: John Lamigan

1) Warlord powerbombed Chris Walker in 11:11. D 2) Big Boss Man schoolboyed Repo Man in 9:12 after Repo thought he had won but BBM had his foot on the ropes. C 3) Tito Santana small packaged Ted DiBiase in 13:16. C 4) Natural Disasters beat Hackshaw Duggan & Sgt. Slaughter by DQ at 11:25 when Duggan used the 2x4. C- 5) J.W. Storm over Kato with a roll up from abody slam attempt. C- 6) British Bulldog sunset flipped Rick Martel in 11:38. C 7) Hulk Hogan & Roddy Piper beat Ric Flair & Sid Justice in 14:33 when Hogan pinned Flair after a clothesline. B- ATT: 12,500

Springfield Civic Center (WWF) Springfield, MA February 29, 1992
Correspondent: Ray Gore

1) J.W. Storm small packaged Kato in 10:00. Frenchy Martin was a ring attendant tonight. 3/4* 2) Warlord powerbombed Chris Walker in 11:00. Dud 3) Rick Martel upset Big Boss Man in 15:20. ** 4) Tito Santana schoolboyed Ted DiBiase in 11:25. *3/4 5) British Bulldog sunset flipped Repo Man in 7:00. 1/4* 6) Natural Disasters over Duggan & Slaughter via DQ in 12:02. Same finish as Pitt. * 7) Roddy Piper beat Ric Flair in a cage bout. Martel came down and slammed the cage door on Piper but Roddy recovered to get out of the ring before Ric. Fans thought he won the world title as no announcement was made. *** ATT: 4,500

A PIECE OF MY MIND
by Evan Ginzburg

Just back from my first trip to Memphis, Arkansas, Alabama, New Orleans, and Mississippi. Since I squeezed in 2 USWA cards during the fast paced 8 day vacation, I figured there's no better place than Arena Report to go into detail on the exciting proceedings.

Sunday, February 16 marked a rare matinee card at the legendary Mid-South Coliseum. Prelims saw Miss Texas beat Miss Jennifer, Tony Faulk take Ricky Hayes, Robert Fuller beat Doug Masters, and in a disappointing confrontation, Brian Christopher beat Tom Prichard. None of these were anything to "write home about", but I readied myself for the rest of the card which featured one outrageous gimmick after another. Some worked, others simply didn't. The Dirty White Girl defeated Miss C.J. as she was the first one to be tossed into a vat of mud. It wasn't exactly wrestling, nor was it exactly entertaining. This, however, was followed by a gory scaffold match, in which Eric Embry tossed The Dirty White Boy from the scaffold, LEGITIMATELY injuring him (when I asked him the following evening about the "wild" match he said it was a "little too wild", pointing to his crutches!). Kimala beat Koko B. Ware in a mediocre confrontation, that was highlighted by Kim Chee being restrained in a cage at ringside- at one point Koko toppled the "rat" cage to the delight of the fans. Following this, Jerry Lawler and The Big Black Dog (great name huh?), hit each other with everything in sight for about 3 minutes. Lawler returned in the main event to replace a no showing Austin Idol. Teaming with Jeff Jarrett, they battled the Moondogs throughout the ringside area, hitting each other with everything not nailed down. Although it wasn't necessarily a "classic" brawl, it certainly deserved the ***3/4 rating I gave it. Great (and I mean GREAT) stuff....

The following evening the USWA hit the dog track in neighboring Arkansas for a small but entertaining show. Jeff Jarrett and Eric Embry worked the crowd in the opening, drawing serious heat but doing more stalling than brawling. The ladies once again proved they were there for their looks and not their wrestling ability (I know this may come off as sexist but that's the reality of it). Koko B. Ware beat the Big Black Dog in a forgettable match. However, the show was more than saved by the double main event as The Moondogs, Lawler and Jarrett once again tore the place up (manager Richard Lee is always part of the action), and Lawler won a colorful battle royale (once he was alone in the ring with one of the Moondogs and Embry it was a cinch for Lawler! Although an exciting match, I wish someone would change this whole tired scenario.) All in all the show was a great deal of fun and for \$5.00, well worth the money.

The USWA may not be what they once were, but they're still the best deal in the country. Where else can you get good brawling action, outlandish gimmicks and name wrestlers that PUT OUT! Support one of the last of the great territories!

And that's a piece of my mind. Catch you next month.....

More Ramblings:

Have heard from a very good source in Tampa that WrestleMania will definitely be Hogan's last match with the WWF. He'll work solely in Japan..... Rumor has it that Pat Patterson has been put on the WWF payroll. If that's true than it was just a reason to have him around the Titan office so he could continue to do work for the WWF and wouldn't be questioned.....Despite what has been said, Terry Gordy & Steve Williams have not signed contracts with WCW as of yet. Close but no cigar yet.....Legion Of Doom will be back in the WWF after WrestleMania. Both sides claiming absence was nothing more than Hawk's injury. Yeah, right.....Bruno Sammartino taped a segment for Geraldo Rivera's show, "Now It Can Be Told" on 3/6. Not sure of the content or air date.....WWF is back in the Meadowlands and it looks like WCW will be locked out. They supposedly signed an exclusive contract to run there. Not sure what this does to the WCW show on 3/31 although I'm sure they'll be allowed to run that one.....Pro Wrestling Torch reported in the March 5 issue that Jeff Gaylord attacked Eddie Gilbert in the locker room due to not being booked. "AR" has learned that the reason goes deeper than that. It was reported that AWF President Gordon Scozzari sent Gaylord down after Eddie due to Gilbert not showing up for the AWF's last tapings.....USWF in Waltham, MA on 3/7 in front of 800 saw Nicolai Volkoff beat Honkey Tonk Man via DQ in the main with Chris Duffy working underneath.....Steve Keirn to turn babyface later this year for Titan.....Don't be surprised to see Chris Qualmann and myself pop up on "Grudge Match" this fall. They'll be taping the end of this month in Daytona and they're interested in Chris and myself for ring announcing and timekeeping respectively.....Steve Sims has started Lucha Libre Weekly which is a newsletter devoted to wrestling in Mexico. For you Lucha fans, it's a

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SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

CENTER STAGE THEATER (Atlanta, Georgia) 03-03-92. WCW TV TAPING FOR AIR ON 03-14-92. (World Championship Wrestling): Dustin Rhodes & Barry Windham over Dallas Page & Tommy Rich..Larry Zybysko over Joey Maggs..Greg Valentine over Marcus Alexander Bagwell..Ron Simmons & The Junkyard Dog over George South & Mike Thor..Brian Pillman over Richard Morton..Sting over Mark Canterbury..Rick Rude over Chuck Roast..Scott Steiner over Steve Austin..**NEWS AND NOTES:** Terry Taylor and Tom Zenk get involved in the Bagwell /Valentine match and end up in a four-way brawl..Scott Steiner defeated Austin by disqualification when Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson ran-in. Scott had just hit the Frankensteiner at the run-in. Rick Steiner made the save and hit a top rope bulldog on Arn that left him laying..WCW returns to Center Stage on both March 17 and 18 for two consecutive nights of TV tapings. It will be interesting to see how that draws..**ATT:**725. Not full.

THE OMNI (Atlanta, Georgia) 03-08-92.Marcus Alexander Bagwell and Mike Graham went to a 15:00 draw..Van Hammer pinned Dallas Page..Greg Valentine & Terry Taylor defeated The Patriots..Brian Pillman pinned Johnny B. Badd. . Big Josh & Ron Simmons defeated Mr. Hughes & Vinnie Vegas..Barry Windham defeated Larry Zybysko in a Bullrope Match..Dustin Rhodes defeated Cactus Jack..Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Arn Anderson & Bobby Eaton in a non-title match..Sting & Rickky Steamboat defeated Steve Austin & Rick Rude..**NEWS AND NOTES:** I did not attend this show thus the results are not as detailed as usual. I was told that the crowd was "pretty good" but I have no idea as to the actual attendance..On the 03-08-92 "Jim Ross Show", Dr. Death Steve Williams confirmed that he and Terry Gordy had not yet signed with WCW. Williams stated that the contract was being negotitaed for he and Gordy by their "Japanese agent". Williams was very frank about his opinions on American wrestling companies on the whole, explaining that was the reason he and Gordy had a "Japanese agent"..

NORTH GEORGIA WRESTLING CENTER (Alpharetta, Georgia) 03-08-92. NGWA TV TAPINGS FOR AIR 03-14-92 THROUGH 04-04-92. (03-14) Hillbilly Festus over Convict Blade..Steve Lawler & Dino Minelli over Tim Strong & Anthony Reese ..The Jailhouse Rocker over Vortex..(03-21) The Maulers over Tom Atlas & Bad Attitude I..Lee Thomas over Keith Hinesly..Mike Curevich over Terry Leyland..(03-28) Convict Blade over Mike Roberts..Hillbilly Festus over The Red Demon..Steve Lawler over Scott Allen..(04-04) The Rappers (Rap-Around Brown & Heavy T) over Keith Hinesly & Black Cat..Mike Curevich over Bad Attitude II..The Maulers over Steve Lawler & Dino Minelli..**NEWS AND NOTES:** This is the latest Georgia wrestling promotion to tape television in the footsteps of Deep South, Southern Championship, and Georgia All-Star. Steven Detruth and I handled the color commentary and play-by-play respectively. The shows only outlet is via the "Pro Wrestling This Week" television show on the WVEU-TV seven hour wrestling block on Saturdays. That show is being hosted by Sam Kent and Eddie Gilbert. Kent is also the head of the new promotion, being assisted by Steve Lawler, Danny Dees (the manager on Convict Blade and several other convicts) and Diana Hemsley (who manages a heel group called "Diana's Boys" including Lawler, Minelli, and Leyland). The group will run the standard north Georgia territory and judging by this initial taping, may do well. The next taping is scheduled for 04-04 in Douglasville, Georgia. If you were wondering, Joe Pedicino is not in any way involved in this group. **ATT:** 85. A pretty smooth start.

THE LAST WORD...

Next week marks the fourth anniversary of the death of my grandfather, Billy Hudson. He was the man solely responsible for introducing me to professional wrestling. He would get such of kick out of seeing me on televised wrestling and reading todays newsletters. I really wish he werestill around.

IT'S MY 2-CENTS

by Mike Terry

Hey, kids--do you know what time it is? It's time for the ring announcer who's not wearing pants! Oh those wacky college kids! What'll they think of next? I wonder how that played in Dubuque? McMahon is already considering the no-pants look for Mike McGuirk.....possibly Mel Phillips--ooh, save me! Of course, Phillips could also leave off his underwear and no one would know since he suffers from that eating disorder which results in Mustafa-gut.

So Superbrawl II is history and the Japan Supershow is contending with the LPWA for the distinction of being the least-watched pay-per-view in wrestling history. I enjoyed Superbrawl--all except the Luger-Sting match. Whether it was the fault of one or both or neither contestant the match just didn't click. But you already know that. And how about that tumultuous in-ring celebration of Sting's title victory? I guess the creative brain-cells ran dry coming up with the post-match party and neglected to consider that it might be not only appropriate, but also expected for some of Sting's friends to run in and congratulate him, or God forbid, carry him from the ring on their shoulders. Or what about a group of those little rug rat Stingers being allowed to celebrate in the ring with the exalted one?

Overall, I enjoyed Superbrawl very much. Jesse Ventura was stupendous and I enjoy the interplay between Ventura and Ross much more than that between Ross and Dangerously. I think Ross is suitably respectful of Jesse. I suspect Ventura would rip Ross' tongue out if Jim got too cute.....the show had its downside--Bagwell's physique being the main one for me. Nice example for the kids at Sprayberry (sp?) High School, Marcus Alexander! And what sense does it make to ban Paul E. and not Madusa? And who rehearsed Missy Hyatt? She was the best I've ever seen her. Actually seemed to have a clue!

Scott Anthony as color commentator on WCW? NOT! Sorry, he doesn't have the polish or the brains. Terry Taylor as color commentator? Now you're talking! And while I'm pissing people off, I enjoy the GWF's "Point-Counterpoint" feature, but get rid of DeTruth. He's out of his league. He's got the style, but the content is lame.

Boni Blackstone has been deposed as winner of this column's Best Bar Hair award. The new winner--oh, my God! We have a tie! The new winners--also from the GWF: Brute Forcz--Thelma and Louise.

Don't you agree that Steve Planamenta must be one highly paid employee of the WWF? A couple years ago the toughest issue he had to deal with was whether Randy Savage and Miss Elizabeth were really married. Now--steroids, sexual harassment, cocaine. And how long until the Native Americans start protesting Tatanka? Steve--you deserve a raise. And he probably got one if he had a part in getting Flair and the Elizabeth magazine pictures on "Entertainment Tonight" 3/5.

In the WCW bonehead move of the month: great job showing the Taylor-Valentine U.S. Tag Title victory over Josh & Simmons on WCW 2/29, but it ended at 7:05--5 minutes past the Superbrawl starting time! And I the only one praying that Valentine still has some of that late 70s/early 80s fire and killer brawler left inside? And that he'll be motivated enough to show it?

We all have our favorite heels, and Larry Zybysco is one of mine. No one riles the crowd better.

The "Dusty finish" sucks! The theory behind it was sound in the 70s. People get pissed that their hero got screwed out of victory, they're pissed at the heel, and they'll come back in 2 weeks to see the heel get his ass kicked. That's just not going to work in the 90s. Isn't it just a cheap substitute for a creative finish? And what sense does it make to repeat a finish on a pay-per-view that he's been running nationwide? And will no doubt continue to run nationwide? It's just another cheap, screwjob finish--a variation on a theme that fans see and have seen weekly for years both in their arenas and on television. How many times does he think people have to see this garbage before they've had enough??? Excuse me while I check my blood pressure.....there--that's better. Maybe if K. Allen Frey spent 100 hours on this topic we might get somewhere.

And to prove that all reruns aren't bad, congrats to the GWF for showing the unedited 2 out of 3 fall lightheavyweight match between the Lightning Kid and Jerry Lynn.

And I'm out of change. See you next month.

 CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Chambers Gym (SAPW) Mars Hill, NC February 14, 1992
 Correspondent: Danny Parris

1) Tommy Gunn & Greg Bobchick upset Death Squad. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 2) Rusty Riddle over Vladimir Koloff in 7:13. Riddle a poor version of Sting. Dud 3) Bambi defended her SAPW ladies belt by turning back Peggy Lee Leather in a good brawl at 12:33. ** 4) Nazi Storm Trooper beat The Patriot (Del Wilkes) in 15:32 when Peggy Lee threw powder in Patriot's eyes and was pinned. ** 5) Patriot won a 10 man Russian Roulette Battle Royal. Similar to Royal Rumble. *** ATT: 90

Catholic Youth Center (WWF) Scranton, PA February 15, 1992
 Correspondent: Bob Ferretti

1) Shawn Michaels pinned Jim Powers with a back suplex. * $\frac{3}{4}$ 2) New Foundation beat Beverly Brothers via DQ when Blake pulled the ref in front of a charging Jim Neidhart. ** 3) Tito Santana rolled up Barbarian (sub for DiBiase). Both just going through the motions. * 4) Hacksaw Duggan & Sgt. Slaughter over Nasty Boys when Saggs accidentally hit Knobbs with 2x4 and Brian got pinned. * $\frac{1}{2}$ for Nasties. 5) Big Boss Man schoolboyed Repo Man. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 6) Randy Savage pinned Jake Roberts after an elbow from the top rope. * $\frac{3}{4}$ ATT: 3,300

Baltimore Arena (WCW) Baltimore, MD February 15, 1992
 Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) Larry Zbyszko defeated Marcus Bagwell with a neckbreaker. D 2) Steve Armstrong over P.N. News with outside help from Tracy Smothers. D 3) Van Hammer beat Abdullah the Butcher via DQ when Abby threw him over the top rope. D 4) Richard Morton small packaged Johnny B. Badd. C 5) Ron Simmons caught Bobby Eaton coming off the top rope with a powerslam and pinned him. B 6) The Steiner Brothers beat Cactus Jack & Mr. Hughes when Rick pinned Hughes after a belly to belly from the top rope. B 7) Ricky Steamboat, Dustin Rhodes, & Barry Windham over Rick Rude, Arn Anderson, & Steve Austin when Steamboat pinned Arn after Dustin hit him with the cowbell. ATT: 4,000

Traveler's West High School (VWO) South Carolina February 22, 1992
 Correspondent: Jeff Wilson

1) Vance Gaylord (gay acy) pinned Corporal Braddock. 2) Bambi over Peggy Lee Leather. 3) Ron Garvin won a handicap match from two green guys named Mr. Clean & Cruiser (subs for no-show Budro Landell) Garvin stretched these guys pretty bad. 4) Wahoo McDaniel beat Vladimir Koloff when Koloff hit his manager with a sickle and Wahoo schoolboyed Koloff. Vladimir's manager Daryl Van Horn shows a lot of promise. 5) Ron Garvin won a blindfold battle royal. It was as bad as it sounds. ATT: 400

Hartford Civic Center (WWF) Hartford, CT February 23, 1992
 Correspondent: Dan Reilly

1) Skinner downed Jim Brunzell in 11:20. Bad opener. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 2) Berserker over Hercules in 6:30. Dud 3) Undertaker used the urn to beat British Bulldog in 6:20. Bulldog suffered a legit bloody nose during bout. * $\frac{3}{4}$ 4) Nasty Boys beat Bushwhackers in 13:20. Nasties sold their souls for Whackers. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 5) Rick Martel over Chris Walker in 13:00. ** all for Walker. 6) Big Boss Man over Repo Man in 9:20 via DQ. ** 7) Hulk Hogan & Roddy Piper over Ric Flair & Sid Justice in 15:05. Hogan pinned Flair clean in the middle. Both faces over huge with the crowd. *** ATT: 5,500

Pop's Flea Market (ACW) Aiken, SC February 23, 1992
 Correspondent: Jeff Wilson

1) Allan Kinsey beat C.C. Rider. Dud 2) Ken Timbs beat Butcher Blackwell. Dud 3) East Coast Gigolos (Al Navarro & Don Driggers) beat Tommy Angel & Tommy Seabolt. ** 4) Paul Orndorff beat The Patriot when Paul's manager for this bout, Daryl Van Horn hit Patriot with a chair while Wilkes was covering and the ref was out. Van Horn put Orndorff on top for the pin. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ ATT: 375

Tampa Sportatorium (ICWA) Tampa, FL February 27, 1992
 Correspondent: Shannon Rose

1) Bambi rolled up Peggy Lee Leather in 7:57. 2) Dan Spivey powerbombed Tommy Starr in 2:47. 3) Hurricane Walker beat Tex Sallenger via DQ when Spivey came to ringside and tripped up Walker in 7:32. 4) Jim Backlund beat Cowboy Man via DQ when Denny Brown interfered on behalf of Coco but Mark Starr came out to help Backlund in 21:49. 5) Greg Valentine over Hercules via DQ when Backlund came out and choked Greg with a chain in 8:28.

LETTERS TO "AR"

Heels

If there's one thing you have to give Vince credit for, it's building heels. Whether it's the Undertaker, Sid, Earthquake, Shango, Bossman... Titan gives its main event heels a four to six month push crushing opponents before they go against Hogan or Savage. This also demonstrates why Flair is once again not being accorded procedural WWF standards: his first feud was with Roddy Piper, who refused to sell for him. His second feud, against Hogan, has him losing via count out or DQ. Now in the tag matches, instead of Piper (the logical candidate) doing the job, the World Champion takes the pinfall because Hogan wants it that way. Ridiculous! Obviously, no matter what kind of push Randy Savage gets, he will not beat Flair, because Ric is being "saved" for Hogan, so Hulk can retire with the belt, having beaten the one man he always wanted to show up on PPV. Let's hope that they wait until Survivor Series, so that the title can go back to the Royal Rumble victor again. That may be the only way Flair gets to be two time WWF champ. Then again, it may be the only way Sid gets the belt.

In contrast, WCW just doesn't wait long enough. Their heel creations (Diamond Stud, Oz) either flop completely or do innumerable jobs or get turned (Johnny B. Badd) before their full potential as main eventers is probed. They also have a propensity to bring in independent talent and push them right to the top (Rude, Vader) instead of building from within. Steve Austin will be ready for World Title shots by 1993, but not if they keep jobbing him out like Buddy Landell.

Jeff Cohen
Great Neck, NY

RL- I don't think you'll have to worry about the Hogan-Flair scenario since it seems Hogan will be history after WMVIII.

Get (A)head?

What happens if the law (Not Big Bossman) closes down the WWF. Between drugs, steroids & conditions to get head (oops, forgot the "a") in the WWF, I hope the better wrestlers place themselves at WCW doorsteps. What do you think Lex Luger is thinking now? Good timing Lex!

Mike Pochuski
Mohnton, PA

SuperBrawl

Can't say enough for SuperBrawl II. Solid thumbs up. I think WCW does a very good job in the beginning of the new year with their PPVs. When was the last time you gave a WCW/NWA PPV show a thumbs down from Jan-Feb? I can't remember. Best match was Liger-Pillman. Worst- none. TV Guide even had a plug for the show. What's wrong with that last sentence?

Now that Undertaker is good, can we call Percy "Baby Bearer"?

Vin Carolan
Stoughton, MA

Zinger Bites The Dust

Since Zinger got married and now claims that he doesn't "have time to write anymore", guess what? I'm gonna bug you even more, you lucky guy. Anyways, when Missy interviewed Madusa at SuperBrawl, weren't you just dying to see them get into a shoot cat-fight?

J.Z. Travis
Woodstock, ONT

RL- Belated congrats to Jeff and his wife Sandy on their marriage. Apologies to Jeff for not mentioning it sooner, but even more apologies to Sandy for marrying the guy.

Me A Homophobe???

Your February 24, 1992 Arena Report may probably be referred to as your homophobic issue. Barry O may have not gotten a push due to his out of the ring exploits. Several reliable folks have told me that he downed many a beer at the wrestlers' bar near the Pittsburgh airport. In fact, he had a worse reputation than his older brother Bob. Titan can legitimately say that a push was unwarranted due to his excessive drinking behavior.

Ron, do you really believe that Typhoon, Earthquake, Savage, Piper, Animal, Hawk, Arn, Tully, etc. got their pushes because they did "special favors"? I really think you're being hypocritical and practicing a double standard. Can you remember how you playfully joshed your Canuck buddies that made passes at Kevin Sullivan and Ric Flair's teen-age daughters? Finally, how come you were so interested in watching Pat Patterson at the tapings instead of paying attention to the matches?

John Lanigan
McKeesport, PA

RL- I think you took my comments on Patterson out of context. They were said

in satire. I am far from a homophobe. (For those that don't know what that means, it is someone who is afraid or uncomfortable with homosexuals.) My attitude towards homosexuals is the same as Barry Orton's. People can have their sexual preference as long as they don't push it on me. As far as why I was watching Patterson is because he was right in front of me and all this shit on him was hitting the fan. And what does me busting the Canucks up about hitting on Miss Flair and Miss Sullivan have to do with anything?

(continued from page 5)

must. Cost is only \$1.00. Order at 1427 West Dickens Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-3003....Kevin Sullivan headed back to WCW. Not sure what his role will be....The Possessor goes against Raul Mata on an IWF card in Frostproof, FL on 3/12. Should be one whale of a bout. You people that were in St.Pete for SuperBrawl last year will remember that one. Possessor of course is Nasty Ned Brady....Dustin Rhodes does a Sound Advice commercial here in Orlando. The graphic for his name reads, "Dustin Rhodes, Jr.". What happened in the editing room....Lou Perez's deal with WCW fell through when Kip Frey came in. The original deal was struck with Herd....Blackjack Mulligan beat Mondo Kleen for the IWF title in Orlando at the fair on 2/28. Mondo has quit the promotion. Look for him to possibly turn up in Global as Pedicino has some interest in him....Wrestle War main event for Jacksonville PPV is entire Dangerous Alliance vs. Sting, Windham, Rhodes, Steamboat, and Nikita in a War Games match. That basically takes all their good heels for the rest of the card save Cactus Jack. Even though Gordy and Williams would not be until May if they sign, I would program them with the Steiners for that show and do a build up on them showing them in Japan. I would then bring in Chris Benoit or Tommy Rogers to work a lightweight title vs. Pillman. Leave me alone. How often do I play booker?....Interesting that Del Wilkes (The Patriot) is finally headed to Titan after the reason I heard why they wouldn't take him. What timing....Some last minute SuperBrawl notes: I really enjoyed the card. It almost had too much good wrestling as by the time Rude-Steamboat came on, we had seen every good technical spot we could have. My pick for best was obviously Liger-Pillman. Worst was Sting-Luger mainly because it was so anti-climatic.. Was kind of pissed they didn't let us see them embrace at the end of their bout. I can understand their decision to a degree. But Luger is leaving for gosh sakes. I know. Don't want to show any reality in this business....Thanks to Cody Boynes for having me on as guest last Sunday on his Wrestle Rap radio show....Dan Wolfe is running a fan club for the Pit Bulldogs aka Mad Bull Busters in Japan. For info write 2-5 Exton Rd. Apts., Somers Point, NJ 08224....Wild Women of Wrestling have rescheduled their card for FT. Lauderdale on 4/20 at the War Memorial with the Glamour Girls vs. Wendy Richeter & Rockin Robin on top....ICWA had a tour of Jamaica from 3/6-3/8....WCW in Chicago 3/1 saw Rick Rude beat Sting in a non title cage bout the afternoon after SuperBrawl. Rick Steiner won a six man elimination. Mr. Hughes was thought to be severely injured in a tag bout as he was carried out on a stretcher but he seems to be back in action.... Bob Ferretti of P.O. Box 34, Jessup, PA 18434 has an 8 tape custom set of the 100 greatest matches of the 1980's that appeared in an article in the 1989 Observer Yearbook. Anyone interested can contact him....I guess Lord Al Hayes reads the sheets. He actually called a BossMan-Warlord spot a "schoolboy". Maybe that's why Titan has barred it from their jargon....About it from here. Sorry for the wacky format this issue but it was a wild one. Hopefully next ish we'll have hotel info for those coming to Jacksonville in May along with some bouts signed for the indy card we're running the night before. If all goes as planned, it'll be a hoot....Until 3/23 here's one more reader profile. See ya, Ron

NAME: GEORGE WILKINSON

OCCUPATION: Millwright

BORN: April 7 Leamington, Ontario

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: Quiet avid wrestling fan.

DREAM VACATION: Living 6 months in Japan.

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: wars and unemployment

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Ric Flair

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: Predator

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: milk, eggs, cheese

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE:

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: Star Trek-Next Generation

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Ric Flair winning world title first time.